## Message Text

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**ACTION AID-59** 

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 NEA-14 SWF-02 EB-11 AGR-20 ISO-00

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FM USINT ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0840
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

**UNCLAS ALGIERS 1610** 

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EAID, AG

SUBJ: TRANS-SAHARAN GRAIN SHIPMENT/COMMUNIQUE NO. 3

1. SECOND CONVOY OF 20 TRUCKS DEPARTED ORAN 1000 HOURS JULY 22 FOR BECHAR, WITH ALL DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER. A LONE TANKER TRUCK LEFT ORAN AT NOON ON THE SAME DAY, WITH DOCUMENTATION RECTIFYING THOSE ISSUED EARLIER FOR THE FIRST CONVOY, WHICH HAD MEANWHILE BEEN SOJOURNING AT BECHAR. SUBSEQUENTLY, CONVOY NO. 1 DEPARTED BECHAR ON THE FIRST LEG OF ITS JOURNEY TO GAO, DURING EARLY MORNING OF 23 JULY. CONVOY NO. 2 SCHEDULED DEPART BECHAR STAGING AREA (INSTEAD OF ADRAR AS PREVIOULSY REPORTED) FOR GAO ON 25 JULY.

2 CONVOY # 3 DEPARTED ORAN FOR BECHAR AT 1800 HOURS
JULY 23. SCHEDULE DEPARTURE FROM BECHAR FOR GAO IS JULY 27.

BETWEEN THEM THE 60 TRUCKS IN THE FIRST THREE CONVOYS ARE CARRYING AT TOTAL CARGO OF 26,400 BAGS OF GRAIN SORGHUM, OR 440 BAGS PER TRUCK AVERAGE. VEHICLES ARE MERCEDES AND BERLIETS, TWIN-AXLE, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE TRUCKS SPECIALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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MODIFIED AND EQUIPPED FOR TRANS-SAHARA TRAVEL. EACH TRUCK

HAS A CREW OF TWO (DRIVER AND ASSISTANT). CONVOYS ARE SELFSUFFICIENT, INCLUDE TANKER TRUCK, NECESSARY SPARE PARTS FOR POSSIBLE BREAKDOWNS, AND ONE FULLY QUALIFIED MECHANIC AND TOOLS PER CONVOY FOR ANY REPAIRS THAT MAY BE NECESSARY.

3. CONVOY NO. 4 WHICH STARTS LOADING TODAY, JULY 24, WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TWO PORTIONS. THE FIRST PORTION WILL BE COMPOSED OF TEN TRUCKS WHICH MAY DEPART FOR BECHAR ON EVENING OF SAME DAY. CARGO IN THIS CASE IS DESTINED TESSALIT. THE SECOND PORTION OF THIS FOURTH AND FINAL CONVOY, DESTINED GAO WILL CARRY GRAIN RECONSTITUTED FROM BROKEN SACKS OF WHICH THE NUMBER IS SUBSTANTIAL. MUCH OF THIS GRAIN WILL HAVE TO BE RESIFTED, AND I WOULD SUGGEST THAT THIS OPERATION BE BEGUN AS SOON AFTER DEPOSITED IN WAREHOUSE AT DESTINATION AS FEASIBLE. RECONSTITUTED GRAIN BEING REBAGGED IN 100 KILO GRAM JUTE BAGS.

4. SS JOSEPH LYKES DEPARTED ORAN 1805 HOURS ON JULY 22, APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER LAST BUCKETS OF LOOSE GRAIN HAD BEEN SCRAPED FROM FORWARD HOLD AND OFF-LOADED. A TOTAL OF 462 BAGS OF AGGREGATE CARGO OF 35,224 WERE NOT ACCOUNTED FOR, PROBABLY DUE TO BREAKAGE WHILE BEING LOADED AT PORT OF DEPARTURE OR WHILE ON ROUTE. LOOSE GRAIN IN PROCESS OF BEING RECONSTITUTED.

5.AS MENTIONED EARLIER, SHIP CARRIED NOT A SINGLE EXTRA BAG. A FACT WHICH HAS CREATED THE ONLY PROBLEM OF ANY MAGNITUDE SO FAR ADDRESSED. IT IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TO BE TOLD THAT VESSEL WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CARRYING EXTRA BAGS. A TELEPHONE CALL PRIOR SHIP'S DEPARTURE STATESIDE WOULD HAVE REVEALED THE OMISSION AND PRESUMABLY PERMITTED ITS RECTIFICATION BAGS HERE ARE EXPENSIVE, OF MOST UNCERTAIN QUALITY AND IN EXTREMELY SHORT SUPPLY.

6. FFPO WOOD STRONGLY RECOMMENDS TO RDO/AMERICAN EMBASSY BAMAKO PERMIT END-USE CHECKER ED SULLIVAN BE DISPATCHED GAO TO AWAIT CONVOY ARRIVAL AND TO REPORT TO RDO/FFPO MAHER ON CONDITION OF CARGO ON ARRIVAL, TO COUNT BAGS, AND TO TAKE STOCK OF ANY LOSSES WHICH MAY HAVE OCCURRED ON ROUTE. RDO UNCLASSIFIED

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MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER DISPATCHING ONE ADDITIONAL PERSON TO TESSALIT FOR SIMILAR REPORT. THESE REPORTS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR THE PLANNING OF POSSIBLE FUTURE TRANS-SAHARAN GRAIN CONVOYS.SIMPSON

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## Message Attributes

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